

THURSDAY
November 27, 1958
5:30 p.m.

1666 15

TELEPHONE CALL TO PRESIDENT (AT AUGUSTA)

Sec called President re the Berlin statement* Sec read the statement. Sec said we had had a statement to that effect in an earlier draft, re the Allies having sought to negotiate with the Soviets for years. Sec said he would prefer to use "on a basis of free elections" because that was the language the Soviets agreed to at the Summit.

Sec reported to Messrs. Merchant and Kohler who were in the room with him that the Pres would like a statement in re negotiating, and that the rest was fine.



*as attached

cjp (one sided)



The Soviet Government has today handed the United States

Ambassador in Moscow a communication relating to Berlin. Apparently

Ambassadors of France, UK, and
similar communications have been received by the British, French and

USSR, W. Germany, Republic of Germany
~~German Ambassador~~ The communication is a very long one and will of
course receive careful study.

The Soviets seem to be proposing that while they keep their grip

on East Berlin, the three Western Allies abandon their rights in West

This "free city" proposal is similar to West Berlin -
Berlin and retire in favor of what is called a "free city". The Soviet

Government indicates that unless the three Western Allies accept this

with 6 months
Soviet proposal, the Soviet Union will itself ~~repudiate~~ *consider itself free* its obligations to

them in relation to Berlin.

It is clear that a number of fundamental considerations are raised
which will have to be kept in mind while we study the Soviet note.

One of these is that the United States, along with Britain and France,
is solemnly committed to the security of the Western sectors of Berlin and



that two and a quarter million West Berliners in reliance thereon have

convinced
convincingly demonstrated the good fruits of freedom.

Another consideration is that the United States will not acquiesce
in ^{the} unilateral repudiation by the Soviet Union of its obligations and
responsibilities formally agreed upon with Britain, France, and the United
States in relation to Berlin.

The United States Government will ~~in this matter~~ consult with the
British and French Governments as well as with the Federal Republic
of Germany. *in accord with the new Soviet note -*

*Neither will I enter into
any agreement with the Soviet
Union which would subject West Berlin
to hostile domination*

PC (meat)



#2 11/2/58 S:JFDulles:cjp

The Soviet Government has today handed the United States Ambassador in Moscow a communication relating to Berlin. Apparently similar communications have been received by the Ambassadors of France, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany. The communication is a very long one and will of course receive careful study.

The Soviets seem to be proposing that while they keep their grip on East Berlin, the three Western Allies abandon their rights in West Berlin and retire in favor of what is called a "free city". Their "free city" proposal is limited to West Berlin. The Soviet Government indicates that unless the three Western Allies accept this Soviet proposal within 6 months, the Soviet Union will consider itself free of its obligations to them in relation to Berlin.

It is clear that a number of fundamental considerations are raised which will have to be kept in mind while we study the Soviet note.

One of these is that the United States, along with Britain and France,



is solemnly committed to the security of the Western sectors of Berlin and that two and a quarter million West Berliners in reliance thereon have convincingly and courageously demonstrated the good fruits of freedom.

Another consideration is that the United States will not acquiesce in a unilateral repudiation by the Soviet Union of its obligations and responsibilities formally agreed upon with Britain, France, and the United States in relation to Berlin. Neither will it enter into any agreement with the Soviet Union which abandons the people of West Berlin to hostile domination.

The Western Allies have for years sought to negotiate with the Soviets for the freedom of all of Germany, of which Berlin is part, on the basis of free elections by the German people themselves. Indeed, the three Western powers are awaiting a reply to their latest proposals presented on September 30, 1958, to the Soviet Government.

The United States Government will consult with the British and French Governments as well as with the Federal Republic of Germany in regard to



the new Soviet note.